



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Chief Administrative Officer

At its meeting held December 2, 2003, the Board took the following action:

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Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

"The Department of Health Services (DHS) has been working to recruit the nursing staff necessary to meet the January 1, 2004, implementation date for the AB 394 Nurse Staffing Ratios. In the current budget forecast, DHS notes that its efforts to recruit nurses in order to comply with these ratios has been hampered by the current nationwide nursing shortage, and they have been unable to hire as many nurses as are needed.

"With California's nursing shortage being the way it is today, it will be difficult to comply with AB 394. It is imperative to seek temporary relief of the new law to avoid impacting the availability of hospital services in County hospitals with specialty services, particularly emergency rooms and trauma centers, if nurses cannot be hired in a timely manner to meet the new nurse-to-patient ratio.

"Last Monday, Governor Schwarzenegger issued an executive order to suspend proposed State regulations and called for the review of all regulations adopted, amended, or repealed in the last five years. However, it is unclear if the new nurse-to-patient ratio is being reviewed."

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, seconded by Supervisor Molina, unanimously carried, the Chief Administrative Officer was instructed to send a five-signature letter to the Governor requesting that he instruct the State Department of Health Services to waive the imposition of sanctions for noncompliance under the AB 394 Nurse Staffing Ratios for public hospitals that have shown, and continue to demonstrate, due diligence in their efforts to recruit and hire the nursing personnel necessary to comply with the nurse-to-patient ratios established by this law.

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County Counsel